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REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Borough of Barnstaple
FOR THE YEAR 1939

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

May, 1940.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Berry and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1939.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

M.O.H. Barnstaple.

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List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector

W. WHITFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

Miss M. LEATHLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M. School Nurse

Miss B. HEDLEY, S.C.M. Midwife

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (estimate of resident population mid 1939)					14,530
Average population appropriate to the calculation					
of death rates	...	...	...	...	14,650
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,472
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£106,197
Produce of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£418

Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	91	91	182
	Illegitimate	3	3	6
				<hr/> 188 <hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·94

		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	7	4	} Total 11
	Illegitimate	0	0	

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 55·27

	Males.	Females.	Total.
DEATHS	111	108	219

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the appropriate resident population 14·94

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other Puerperal Causes	1	5·0

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Death Rate is shown corrected by the Areal Comparability Factor, viz.:—0·80.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 (cor- rected)	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	12·94	·75	11·94	37	0
England and Wales	15·00	·59	12·1	50	4·6

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1914 to 1938 inclusive, and the annual rate for 1939.

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939	37·00

Deaths of Infants under one year.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
					—
					7
					—
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	37·00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					32·78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					166·66
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	0

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1934	1	11	23	8
1935	1	5	23	8
1936	2	7	25	17
1937	20	12	21	9
1938	5	7	23	8
Average	5·8	8·4	23	10
1939	6	7	37	5

The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever compared with previous years :—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.
1934	...	8	8	2
1935	...	11	2	1
1936	...	2	0	1*
1937	...	20	9	1*
1938	...	20	15	1*
1939	...	6	40	0

* These cases were contracted outside the district.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In November the Council adopted my recommendation that Diphtheria Immunisation should be offered to all children attending the elementary schools in the town. The first session was held in December.

TAM (B.W. & Co.) was used, and each child was given three injections as follows:—

1 c.c. 1 c.c. 1·5 c.c.
at fortnightly intervals.

The number of children commenced was 989, and the number completed 926.

The Immunisation of pre-school children has commenced, and details will be given in the next report.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.

The list of officers is found at the front of this report.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

No provision is made by the Local Authority. Three district nurses are provided by voluntary organisations.

Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 37 of Diphtheria were removed to this hospital during the year.

Arrangements have been made for cases of Acute Poliomyelitis to be treated at the Exeter Isolation Hospital, Whipton, to which 1 case was sent.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter, and continue to be of greatest service to the Borough and the Medical Profession.

Clinics.

The School Clinic and Welfare Centre continue to do excellent work at their premises at Boutport Street.

The V.D. Clinic.

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annex. There is a session held every Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ambulance Services.

There is a motor ambulance stationed at Bideford for the removal of infectious cases.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to be of great service to the district.

Swimming Bath.

There is a Municipal Open-air Swimming Bath situated in Rock Park. It has a modern pressure filtration plant, and the whole of the water in the bath passes through filters every six hours. There is a chlorination plant, and the following samples of water taken show that it works efficiently :—

Month		Bacillus Coli.	Organisms growing on agar 2 days at 37°c	Organisms growing on agar 3 days 20°c
June	...	absent in 100 c.c.	10 per ml.	320 per ml.
July	...	absent in 100 c.c.	6 per ml.	30 per ml.
August	...	absent in 100 c.c.	10 per ml.	120 per ml.

All the samples were taken at the end of a day when good use had been made of the bath.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
April, 1940.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Berry and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my nineteenth Annual Report on the administrative work carried out during the year 1939.

Whilst the general work of the department has been carried on without statutory notices, it was found necessary to serve legal notices under the Housing Act in four instances. It was with considerable satisfaction that in March the Council appointed Mr. E. J. Hart of Southsea to be the clerk in the office, but just at a time when his services were becoming most useful, the country became engaged in war, and almost immediately he was called to join his unit in the Royal Air Force. Once more the clerical work is being done by the Sanitary Inspectors. Naturally there has been an entire cessation of housing inspections, and unfortunately the work which had been done in connection with the possibility of a redevelopment scheme will have to be commenced afresh when times are again peaceful.

Whilst in some ways the work of the department has been curtailed, more duties have been placed upon the Inspectors in consequence of the war, such as Food Enforcement Inspection, Salvage and A.R.P. work.

Once more I have to record my thanks to Mr. Whitfield for his unswerving loyalty and devotion to the work of the department. What a pleasure it is to be associated with such a colleague.

The total number of visits made was 4,575. Nuisances were abated and repairs or improvements carried out at 326 premises.

208 preliminary and 27 secondary notices were served and 136 verbal instructions given. In addition, 480 letters, etc., were written.

55 complaints were received as follows :—

7	Condition of premises	5	Rats
1	Defective stove	1	Cats
2	Defective sash cords	6	Vermin
1	Defective guttering	1	Smoke from chimney
1	Defective drain	1	Smell from sewage in field
8	Choked drains	1	Smell from smoking hams
2	Defective water closets	1	Soot
1	Defective w.c. cistern	1	Carcase washed up on river bank
2	Dampness	1	Burning waste from butcher's shop
3	Dust bins	1	Smell from bones
4	Flooding	1	Smell from gully
1	Overcrowding	2	Noise

Each case was investigated, and abatements obtained wherever possible.

The drains of 25 houses were renewed, and repairs carried out in 38 instances. 266 tests were applied.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are still two common lodging houses licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

Accommodation is provided for 26 persons as follows :—

Belle Meadow	Males	12
Malletts Row	Males	14

Both premises are inspected frequently, and are found to be clean and properly conducted.

Water Supply.

Seven samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and the following results were satisfactory :—

	B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.	Probable No. Coli aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.	Colonies on agar 2 days	No. after 3 days at 22°C.
1	"	Nil	18	12
2	"	"	25	30
3	"	"	7	25
4	"	"	10	88
5	"	"	5	12
6	"	"	16	24
7	"	"	3	14

Bed Bugs and other Vermin.

No cases of bed bugs or other vermin were reported from Council houses during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The two S.D. Freighters continue to give satisfactory service. No. 1 vehicle is 8 years old, and No. 2 $4\frac{1}{2}$ years.

During the financial year ended March 1940 the following figures were returned :—

No. of loads collected—	Vehicles		Totals
	No. 1.	No. 2	
House Refuse	448	1245	1693
Trade Refuse	661	10	671
Miles travelled ...	5433	6331	11764
Gallons of petrol ...	817	1026	1843
Miles per gallon ...	6.65	6.17	6.41

In comparison with last year 29 more loads of refuse were collected—5 house and 24 trade—138 less miles travelled, and 42 more gallons of petrol used. The average miles per gallon decreased by .38.

2,389 tons of house refuse were collected during the year (estimated by weighing the whole of the refuse collected during one week in each quarter). This is a decrease of 284 tons on the previous year.

The weight per 1,000 population per day (365 to the year) was 8.9 cwts., which is 99 lbs. less than last year, and the quantity of refuse produced by each house per annum was approximately 10.68 cwts. against 11.85 cwts. last year.

Trade refuse was collected from 212 premises twice weekly in most cases, and the amount collected was 520 tons, for which the sum of £290 was received. This income is practically the same as last year.

Disposal. As stated in last year's report, the present site will be finished during the summer of 1940. Since the war commenced in September, about 18 tons of materials other than pig and poultry food have been salvaged, which means that the life of the tip has been prolonged by a few months. After considerable controversy it has been decided to use the Rock Park sports ground as the new tip. Suitable covering material is available on the site, so that it will be possible to deal with the refuse on controlled tipping lines.

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged to the end of the financial year :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Paper ...	15	10	1	0
Aluminium ...		1	1	14
Brass ...		1	2	2
Iron ...	1	15	0	0
Lead ...		1	1	8
Textiles ...		1	0	8
Bottles (61½ doz.)		7	0	0
	17	17	2	4

The sum received for salvaged materials was £49. The collecting staff received a bonus on the amount recovered from the refuse.

For both collection and disposal services the nett cost was more than last year by £72.

Holidays accounted for £48 and sickness only £8.

The following are the unit figures :—

		Collection £	Disposal £	Total £
Gross Expenditure ...		1324	405	1729
Gross Income ..		290	49	339
Nett Cost ...		1034	356	1390
Nett cost per ton (house and trade refuse) ...		s. d. 7 1'3	s. d. 2 5'4	s. d. 9 6'7
Nett cost per 1,000 population		£71'1	£24'5	£95'6
Nett cost per 1,000 premises (4684)		£220'7	£76'0	£296'7

Rate in the £ ... 3'3 pence

Meat and Food Inspection.

1998 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption. In most cases clean conditions are observed. At one of the private slaughterhouses, however, the occupier gave the department a considerable amount of trouble. The premises were very old, but prior to 1939 they were kept in a very clean state, and only a number of animals suitable to its size were slaughtered there. A change of occupation took place, and the number of animals killed there was out of proportion to the accommodation provided. It was a registered slaughterhouse, and therefore more difficult to close than would

have been the case had it been a licensed place. However, negotiations took place between the Local Authority and the owner, with the result that compensation was paid and the premises were closed and demolished. This was considered the first step towards the abolition of the private slaughterhouses in the town. The Food and Drugs Act having come into force in October, the necessary steps would no doubt have been taken to close other private slaughterhouses, but on account of the war the Ministry of Food centralised the slaughtering at the Council's Public Abattoir, and so the other 5 Private Slaughterhouses are out of use.

35,422 Food Animals were slaughtered in the Borough during the year as follows :—

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Public Abattoir ...	1086	82	3730	2739
Private Slaughterhouses	722	288	25398	1377
	<hr/> 1808	<hr/> 370	<hr/> 29128	<hr/> 4116

Seventy per cent of the sheep killed were sent to London.

Over eight hundred more animals were dealt with than in 1938. Beasts were down by 76, calves down by 79, sheep up by 321, and pigs increased by 636.

The total number of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir was 7,637, an increase of 128 over 1938 and 669 more than in 1937. This figure is again a record.

The following table gives the comparative figures for the last five years at the Public Abattoir :—

Year	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
1935	1004	136	2962	1493	5595
1936	1094	119	3295	1736	6244
1937	1137	116	2988	2727	6968
1938	1180	125	3663	2541	7509
1939	1086	82	3730	2739	7637

Not until the outbreak of war, and intimation was received that the Council's premises would be used for the slaughtering of all animals to supply the needs of the Borough, Barnstaple Rural District, Lynton, Lynmouth and South Molton, was anything done to provide additional facilities, although the need had been stressed in reports over a period of three years. The improvements were advocated so that the private slaughterhouses in the town could be closed in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act 1938. It was never anticipated that the premises would be used to serve the neighbouring districts, but this is further proof that the premises are both adequate and suitable for local needs.

An electric hoist has been provided, which enables beasts to be bled whilst hanging, and it is working satisfactorily. Perfect bleeding is assured by this method, and the meat will be better for it. This is the first apparatus of this type to be provided in this area. Additional facilities have been provided for hanging the carcasses of beef, and further improvements will no doubt be carried out.

28 Licenses were issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation :—

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 16	11 Generalised Tuberculosis 3 Johne's Disease with Emaciation, &c. 1 Inflammatory Condition 1 Septicæmia
Cows Heads ...	... 39	38 Tuberculosis 1 Injury
Side of Beef ...	... 1	Tuberculosis
Fore Quarters of Beef	... 3	Tuberculosis
Hind Quarters of Beef	... 1	Tuberculosis
Beef ...	... 44 lbs.	Tuberculosis
Beef ...	... 104 lbs.	Injury
Beef (two briskets)	... 11 lbs.	Lipoma
Beef ...	... 218 lbs.	Decomposition
Carcases of Veal	... 2	1 Tuberculosis 1 Pyæmia
Carcases of Mutton	... 34	15 Emaciation 6 Inflammatory Condition 1 Gangrenous Pneumonia 3 Injury 6 Septicæmia 1 Emaciation and Pleurisy 2 Moribund
Fore Quarter of Mutton	... 1	Pleurisy
Hind Quarter of Mutton	... 1	Injury
Mutton ...	... 14 lbs.	Injury
Carcases of Pork	... 8	4 Tuberculosis 1 General Inflammation 1 Septicæmia 1 Uræmia 1 Traumatic Pericarditis
Fore Quarter of Pork	... 1	Pleurisy

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Pigs Heads	297	Tuberculosis, 4026 lbs.
Offals	4650lbs.	Various
Jellied Veal	3 tins	Decomposition
Corned Beef	1 tin	"
Fruit	48 tins	"
Cooked Ham	12 lbs.	"
Bacon	5 lbs.	Blood Splashed
Fish Haddock	224lbs.	Decomposition
Megrims	35 lbs.	"
Hake	35 lbs.	"
Mackerel	1442lbs.	"
Gurnets	350lbs.	"
Dog Fish	70 lbs.	"
Kippers	2100 lbs.	"
Cod Fillets	700 lbs.	"
Prawns	6 tins	"

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

	Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases	8	3	...	1
Hind Quarters	1	..	...	...
Fore Quarters	3	...	...	...
Lungs only	23	4	5	1
Lungs and liver	5	4	...	1
Lungs, liver and diaphragm	1	...	...	...
Lungs and diaphragm	1	...	...	...
Liver only	2	1	1	...
Head only	7	3	5	1
Head and lungs	6	2	2	...
Head, liver and lungs	3	1	1	...
Head, liver, lungs and stomach ... ..	...	1	2	...
Head, lungs, diaphragm and stomach	1	...	...	...
Head and shoulder ... ..	...	...	1	...
Head, lungs and shoulder	1	...	...	...
Head, lungs, liver and diaphragm ... ..	...	...	1	...
Side, lungs and liver ... ..	...	...	1	...
Stomach ... ..	...	...	...	1

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned and separating Tuberculosis from other diseases and conditions :—

		Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Beef	...	7999 lbs.	3157 lbs.	11156 lbs.
Pork	...	4689 „	537 „	5226 „
Mutton	...	...	1457 „	1457 „
Offals	...	2275 „	2375 „	4650 „
Totals	...	14963 lbs.	7526 lbs	22489 lbs.

		tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat	...	10	0	3	5
Fish	...	2	2	3	0
		12	3	2	5

All of which was voluntarily surrendered.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1284	524	370	29128	4116
Number inspected	1284	524	370	7468	4116
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	1	4	1	34	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	154	...	59	301
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	2·8%	30·1%	·27%	1·24%	7·4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	3	8	1	...	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	38	62	4	...	300
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	3·19%	13·3%	1·35%	...	7·3%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	19
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers ...	12
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the Borough	24
Retailers with Dairy within the district and who have Cowsheds outside	4
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer ..	1
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy ...	3
Wholesale producer with Cowshed outside the district, but with Dairy in the Borough ...	1
Farms where Butter and Cream only produced—Cowsheds and Dairies	2

225 Inspections were made to the 25 Cowsheds—24 different producers—and 41 Dairies situated within the Borough. Lime-washing is carried out during the months of May and October, and the premises are found to be maintained in a clean state.

173 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

96 samples passed the prescribed test.

In order to pass this test, a sample must not decolourise methylene blue in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours between 1st May and 31st October, or in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours between 1st November and 30th April. A sample should also contain no coliform bacillus in 1/100th of a millilitre.

The following tables give the results in detail, separating the samples taken in the winter and summer, and showing the number of repeat samples following a primary failure.

	Town Samples		Outside Samples		
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	
Passed Methylene Blue test ...	21	12	28	10	PASSED
Passed Blue and Coli tests ...	5	7	9	4	
Failed Methylene Blue test ...	8	8	12	10	FAILED
Failed Blue test, passed Coli ...	...	6	1	1
Failed Blue test, failed Coli ...	4	15	4	4	
Passed Blue test, failed Coli ...	1	1	1	1	

			No. Passed	No. Failed
TOWN SAMPLES	Primary	58	35	23
	Repeats	30	10	20
OUTSIDE SAMPLES	Primary	62	39	23
	Repeats	23	12	11

It will be seen that of the 96 samples which passed, 63 were winter samples and 33 taken during the summer; and of the 77 failures, 46 samples were taken during the summer period.

69% of the winter samples passed, 42% of the summer samples passed. There is little doubt that the non-cooling of the milk is the cause of so many failures during the warm weather.

90 samples of milk were taken for the detection of tubercle bacilli, and in no case was the organism found.

41 samples were from town producers, and 49 from producers living outside the district.

75 cases were negative after the guinea-pig had lived for the full period of six weeks.

In 15 cases the results were inconclusive, as the guinea-pigs died at various periods from one day to three weeks.

The milk supply of the town is obtained from 62 different producers as follows :—

Town producers	...	...	...	23
Outside producers retailing in the town			...	24
Outside producers supplying local dairymen			...	15

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Informal	Total	
New Milk ...	12		11 }	Genuine
" " (in course of delivery...			1 }	No. 603 added water 3%
" " (Appeal to cow ...	2		1 }	Genuine
Scald Milk ...	2		2	" 607 added water 17%
" " (in course of delivery...	4		1 }	Genuine
Butter—Devon ...	1		3 }	" 612 added water 7%
" Factory ...	1		1	Genuine
" Blended ...	1		1	Genuine
Chocolate Swiss Roll		1	1	Genuine
Sausages—Pork ...		6	6	Genuine
Vinegar—Ordinary ...		2	2	Genuine
" " "		1	1	No. 589 17% deficient in acetic acid
" Malt ...		1	1	" 590 not malt vinegar
" Ordinary ...	1		1	" 593 12% deficient in acetic acid
" Malt ...	1		1	" 594 not malt vinegar
" Ordinary ...	1		1	Genuine
" " "		1	1	" 597 7% deficient in acetic acid
" " "	1		1	" 598 9% " " "
" " "	1		1	" 599 9% " " "
" " "	1		1	" 600 5% " " "
" " "	1		1	" 601 4% " " "
" Malt ...		1	1	Genuine
Totals ...	32	13	45	

Sample No. 589 was taken from a licensed house, and was followed up by the formal sample No. 593. No. 597 was obtained from the same premises.

Samples No. 598, 599, 600 and 601 were taken from different shops. All these samples of ordinary vinegar came from the same wholesale firm.

It would appear that the vinegar sold at the licensed house, although adulterated when delivered, was being further adulterated by the seller.

1st sample	17%	deficient in acetic acid.
2nd	12%	" " " "
3rd	7%	" " " "

The third sample corresponds more nearly to samples Nos. 598, 599, 600 and 601, showing the quality of the vinegar when delivered.

Legal proceedings should have been taken respecting samples Nos. 593 and 597. Particulars regarding these samples were communicated to the Health Department of the city where the vinegar was manufactured. A thorough investigation was made, and the firm after admitting the deficiency, gave an undertaking that more care would be taken in future.

Samples Nos. 590 and 594 were taken at another licensed house, but as it was found that the occupier had no idea that there was any difference between malt vinegar and ordinary vinegar, a warning was given.

Sample No. 603 was purchased from a retailer. This was followed by sample No. 607, taken from the producer at the premises of the retailer. The farm was visited the following morning, and two appeals to cow samples were taken, both of which were found genuine.

The producer was proceeded against—No. 607—and was convicted and fined £5 and analyst fee.

Legal proceedings were also taken against the retailer—No. 603—and a fine of 10/- was imposed.

Proceedings were taken against the retailer of sample No. 612 after a thorough investigation had been made to prove the case. A fine of £3 and costs was imposed.

The 14 genuine samples of new milk showed an average analysis of 3·84% fat and 8·91% solids not fat.

The 4 genuine samples of scald milk contained an average of 1·58% fat and 9·19% solids not fat.

In addition to the formal samples of milk sent to the Public Analyst, 22 new and 5 scald milk were analysed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases of infectious diseases were investigated :—

Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis
40	6	1

The following fumigations were carried out :—

Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis	Cancer	Nursing Homes
44	6	12	2	8
Vermineous	N. Devon Infirmary	Poliomyelitis	Various	
25	3	2	5	

52 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected, and the following is a list of the articles :—

	Mattresses	Pillows and Bolsters	Blankets	Other Articles
From cases of disease in the town	52	101	51	99
From the North Devon Infirmary	15	43	16	58
From premises outside the town	16	31	12	33

37 cases of Diphtheria, 1 of Scarlet Fever, and 1 Acute Poliomyelitis were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Factory and Workshop Act 1901 and the Factories Act 1937.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
		Verbal	
Factories with mechanical power ...	18	4	7
Factories without mechanical power ...	17	1	5
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers' premises) ...			
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total ...	35	5	12

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	6	6		
Overcrowding (S. 2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...				
Sanitary Con- veniences (S. 7) { insufficient	4	3		
{ unsuitable or defective ...	3	3		
{ not separate for sexes ...	1	1		
Other offences	3	3		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total	17	16		

Housing.**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :**

- (1) a Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 157
- b Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 500

(2).	a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	...	...	79
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	174
(3).		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	1
(4).		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	78

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	64
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1).	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	4
(2).	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners	...	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1).	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	0
(2).	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :			
	(a) By owners	...	...	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	...	...	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936 :

(1).	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	0
(2).	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	3

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936 :

(1).	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	..	...	...	...	0
(2).	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	32
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	32
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	257
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	..	2
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	9
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	26
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	0
		Houses measured at request of owners	...	...	...	90
		Houses visited re overcrowding	...	...	...	9

The selection of tenants for Council houses is in the hands of the Public Health Department, and 27 visits were made to secure tenants for the various vacancies occurring.

In addition to the three houses demolished in Green Lane in pursuance of demolition orders, one house demolished by informal action—1 Alma Place, Pilton.

No. 8 Queen Street was demolished by arrangement between the Local Authority and the owner.

8 houses, viz. :—

No. 5 Diamond Street,
Nos. 1-6 Sanders Court,
No. 36 Queen Street

have been vacated, and undertakings given by the owners not to permit them to be re-occupied.

46 new houses suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes were erected during the year by private enterprise.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit only	...	...	62
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium	...	...	8
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide, and Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	2
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	4
Carbide of Calcium only	...	...	3
Total			79

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	236,478 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,688 lbs.
Petroleum Mixtures	...	152 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licenses was £58 5s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 24.

A license was granted to store gunpowder and high explosives in a magazine.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1939.**

	Public Health Act	Housing Act	Shops Act	Total
New sets of house drains laid	19	6		25
Drains repaired	31	6	1	38
Drains cleared	35			35
New interceptors fixed	13	2		15
New inspection chambers built	36	5	1	42
New fresh air inlets provided	19	2		21
New gullies fixed	73	7	1	81
New soil pipes fixed	15			15
New vent pipes provided	24	1	2	27
Rain water pipes repaired	4	4		8
New water closets built	19	4	5	28
New W.C. pans provided	77	7	7	91
New flushing cisterns fixed	48	5	5	58
Flushing cisterns repaired	7	2		9
New scullery troughs provided	19	7	1	27
New scullery waste pipes fixed	21	8	1	30
New sculleries built	3	4		7
Rooms cleaned	48	16		64
Plaster repaired—internal	13	38		51
" " external	12	20		32
Floors renewed or repaired	21	16		37
Roofs renewed or repaired	14	12		26
New windows fixed	22	25		47
Windows made to open	9			9
Windows repaired	5	6		11
New sash cords provided	9	4		13
Staircase renewed or repaired	1	2		3
Hand rails provided to staircase	1	3		4
Yards provided	2	1		3
Yards cemented	10	3		13
Yards repaired	4	3		7
Dampness remedied	9	5		14
Guttering renewed or repaired	1	7		8
Back parts limewashed	6	5		11
Larders provided	27	13		40
New wash houses provided	2	2		4
Coppers repaired	3	1		4
Kitchen stoves renewed or repaired	1	4		5
Offensive accumulations removed	2			2
Overcrowding abated		9		9
Dust bins provided	94	5	1	100
Water supplies brought inside dwellings		4		4
Urinal to public premises provided with light	2			2
Bath rooms provided	4			4
Court yard paved	1			1
Miscellaneous	79	53		132
Smoke and water tests applied to drains				266
Premises where nuisances abated				326

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	2575
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1730
Visits to butchers' shops	...	...	...	145
Visits to other food shops	..	..	...	39
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	115
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	110
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	7
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	36
Factories, &c.	...	...	...	35
Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	7
Shops inspected under Shops Act	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream premises inspected	...	...	...	33
Food preparing premises inspected	...	...	...	15
Houses inspected (Housing Act)	...	...	...	79
Houses re-visited	"	"	...	174
Houses inspected (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	78
Houses re-visited	"	"	...	326
Houses measured	...	...	...	90
Houses visited re overcrowding	...	...	...	9
Houses visited re T.B. cases	...	..	...	64
Visits to refuse tip	...	..	...	81
Letters written	...	...	310}	480
Letters written re milk samples	...	...	170}	
Statutory Notices—Housing Act ..	...	...	...	4
Preliminary Notices Housing Act	...	...	...	7
" " Public Health Act—Housing	...	...	...	76
" " " " " Nuisances	..	...	...	31
" " Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	9
" " re Dust Bins	...	...	...	65
" " re Rats and Mice	...	...	...	1
" " Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	8
" " Common Lodging House	...	...	...	1
" " Factory Act	...	...	...	3
" " Petroleum Act	...	...	...	4
" " re overcrowding	...	...	...	2
" " re slaughterhouse	...	...	...	1
Secondary notices	...	...	...	27
Verbal notices	...	...	...	136
Sanitary certificates	...	...	...	2

I wish to record thanks to each Member of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee, and to all the Officials of the Corporation, for the support and consideration afforded to me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5	1			
5—10				
10—15			1	
15—20				
20—25	1			
25—35		2		1
35—45	*2			
45—55	1			
55—65	1	1		
65 and over				
Totals	6	3	1	1

* Case imported from London.

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5			*1	
5—10				
10—15			†1	
15—20				
20—25				
25—35				
35—45				
45—55				
55—65	°2	‡1		
65 and over				
Totals	2	1	2	

† Schoolboy

‡ Household Duties

* Infant

°Potter Farm Labourer

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1939 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Ery- sipelas	Ophth- almia Neona- torum	Pneu- monia	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Acute Polio- myelitis	Admitted to Hospital			Deaths
								Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Acute Polio- myelitis	
Under 1 year ...				1							
1 to 2 years ...		1			2				1		1
2 to 3 years ...		2			2				2		
3 to 4 years ...		3			1				3		
4 to 5 years ...	1	8	1		6		1		7	1	
5 to 10 years ...	1	8			1				8		1
10 to 15 years ...		9			3				8		
15 to 20 years ...	2	9			9			1	8		1
20 to 35 years ...	2	9	2		5	3					
35 to 45 years ...			3		6	2					
45 to 65 years ...			2		6						
65 years and over											
TOTAL ...	6	40	8	1	41	*5	1	1	37	1	3
NORTH WARD...	2	29	3		21		1	1	27	1	3
SOUTH WARD...	4	11	5		20	5			10		

* 4 cases from other districts in North Devon Infirmary.

Causes of Death during the Year 1939

Causes of Death				M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	1
Influenza	...	...	...	4	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	2	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	2	0
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	0
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	0	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	15	22
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	11	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	23	22
Aneurysm	...	...	...	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	10	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	0	0
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	...	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	0	0
Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	...	...	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, } Malformations, &c., }	...	...	...	2	3
Senility	...	...	...	8	14
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	9	3
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	7	5
Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown	...	...	...	1	2
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...
Small-Pox	...	...	...	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	0	0
All Causes	...	...	...	111	108

